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# Merriam- Webster's Collegiate<sup>®</sup> Dictionary

ELEVENTH  
EDITION



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**chaku** [Jp dial. (Okinawa)] (1970) : a weapon that consists of two hardwood sticks joined at their ends by a short length of rawhide, cord, or chain  
**nun-chature** \nun(t)-sē-ō-čhūr, \nūn(t)-, -chōr, -tyūr, -tūr/ n [It *nunciatura*, fr. *nuncio*] (1652) 1 : a papal diplomatic mission headed by a nununcio 2 : the office or period of office of a nununcio  
**nun-clo** \nun(t)-sē-ō, \nūn(t)-, -pl-čl-ōs/ [It, fr. *L. nuntius* messenger, message] (1528) : a papal legate of the highest rank permanently accredited to a civil government  
**nun-cle** \nag-kəl/ n [by alter. (fr. misdivision of an uncle)] (ca. 1589) chiefly dial : UNCLE  
**nun-cu-pa-tive** \nun-kyū-pā-tiv, \nag-, \nag-, \nag-kyū-pā- / adj [ML *nuncupatus*, fr. LL, so-called, fr. *L. nuncupatus*, pp. of *nuncupare* to name, prob. ultim. fr. *nomen* name + *capere* to take — more at NAME, HEAVE] (1546) : not written : ORAL (a ~ will)  
**nun-ery** \nun-rē, \nā-nē- / n, pl -ner-les (14c) : a convent of nuns  
**nuc** \nu- / n [Vietnamese *nước* *mām*, lit., salted fish sauce] (1919) : a sauce made of fish (as anchovies) fermented in brine  
**Nu-pe** \nu- / n, pl Nu-pe or Nu-pes (1883) : a member of a people of west central Nigeria; also : the language of the Nupe people  
**nup-tial** \nap-shəl, -chəl, -sha-wəl, -cha-wəl/ adj [L. *nuptialis*, fr. *nuptia*, wedding, fr. *nubere* to marry; perh. akin to Gk *nymphē* bride, nymph] (15c) 1 : of or relating to marriage or the marriage ceremony 2 : characteristic of or occurring in the breeding season (~ flight)  
**nuptial** n (ca. 1555) : MARRIAGE, WEDDING — usu. used in pl.  
**nup-tial-ty** \nap-shē-ā-lā-tē, -chē-ā- / n, pl -ties (1899) : the marriage rate  
**Nur-stani** \nur-ō-stā-nē, \nyūr- / n [Nuristan, Afghanistan] (1951) 1 : a member of a group of peoples of the Hindu Kush in northeastern Afghanistan 2 : the family of languages spoken by the Nuristanis that constitutes a distinct branch of Indo-Iranian  
**nurse** \nur-s/ n [ME *nurice*, *norse*, *nurse*, fr. AF *nurice*, fr. LL *nutricia*, fr. L, fem. of *nutricius* nourishing — more at NUTRITIOUS] (13c) 1 : a woman who suckles an infant not her own : WET NURSE b : a woman who takes care of a young child : DRY NURSE 2 : one that looks after, fosters, or advises 3 : a person who cares for the sick or infirm; specif : a licensed health-care professional who practices independently or is supervised by a physician, surgeon, or dentist and who is skilled in promoting and maintaining health — compare LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE, REGISTERED NURSE 4 : a worker form of a social insect (as an ant or bee) that cares for the young b : a female mammal used to suckle the young of another  
**nurse** v (14c) 1 : to suckle, nourish, contr. of *nurish* 2 : to take nourishment from the breast of 2 : REAR, EDUCATE 3 : to promote the development or progress of b : to manage with care or economy (*nursed* the business through hard times) (*nursed* a 1-0 lead) c : to take charge of and watch over 4 : to care for and wait on (as a sick person) b : to attempt to cure by care and treatment 5 : to hold in one's memory or consideration (~ a grievance) 6 : to use, handle, or operate carefully so as to conserve energy or avoid injury or pain (~ a sprained ankle) b : to use sparingly c : to consume slowly or over a long period (~ a cup of coffee) ~ vi 1 : to feed an offspring from the breast b : to feed at the breast : SUCK 2 : to act or serve as a nurse — nurse-r n  
**nurse-maid** \nur-s-mād/ n (1657) : a girl or woman who is regularly employed to look after children  
**nurse-mid-wife** \nurs-mīd-wīf/ n (1952) : a registered nurse with additional training as a midwife who delivers infants and provides prenatal and postpartum care, newborn care, and some routine care (as gynecological exams) of women — nurse-mid-wife-ry \nurs-mīd-wīf-ē-ri, -wīf- / n  
**nurse-prac-ti-tion-er** \prak-ti-ti-sh(ə)-nər/ n (1969) : a registered nurse who is qualified through advanced training to assume some of the duties and responsibilities formerly assumed only by a physician  
**nurs-ery** \nur-s-ri, \nur-s- / n, pl -er-les (14c) 1 obs : attentive care : POSTERAGE 2 : a child's bedroom b : a place where children are temporarily cared for in their parents' absence c : DAY NURSERY 3 : something that fosters, develops, or promotes b : a place in which persons are trained or educated 4 : an area where plants are grown for transplanting, for use as stocks for budding and grafting, or for sale 5 : a place where young animals grow or are cared for  
**nurs-ery-man** \nur-s-ri-mən/ n (1672) : one whose occupation is the cultivation of plants (as trees and shrubs) esp. for sale  
**nursery rhyme** n (1816) : a short rhyme for children that often tells a story  
**nursery school** n (1835) : a school for children usu. under five years  
**nurse's aide** n (1943) : a worker who assists trained nurses in a hospital by performing unspecialized services (as giving baths)  
**nurse shark** n [alter. of *nurse*] (1851) : any of various sharks (as family *Ginglymostomatidae*); esp : a shark (*Ginglymostoma cirratum*) of warm waters  
**nursing** n (1860) 1 : the profession of a nurse (schools of ~) 2 : the duties of a nurse (proper ~ is difficult work)  
**nursing home** n (1896) : a privately operated establishment providing maintenance and personal or nursing care for persons (as the aged or the chronically ill) who are unable to care for themselves properly  
**nurs-ling** \nur-s-līŋ/ n (1557) 1 : one that is solicitously cared for 2 : a nursing child  
**nur-tur-ance** \nur-čhə-rən(t)s/ n (ca. 1938) : affectionate care and attention — nur-tur-ant \nur-tur-ant/ adj  
**nur-ture** \nur-čhə-r/ n [ME *nurture*, *nurture*, fr. AF *nurture*, fr. LL *nurtura* act of nursing, fr. *L. nutritus*, pp. of *nutrire* to suckle, nourish — more at NOURISH] (14c) 1 : TRAINING, UPBRINGING 2 : something that nourishes : FOOD 3 : the sum of the environmental factors influencing the behavior and traits expressed by an organism  
**nurture** v (15c) : to supply with nourishment 2 : EDUCATE 3 : to further the development of : FOSTER — nur-tur-er \nur-tur-er/ n  
**nut** \nut/ n [ME *nute*, *note*, fr. OE *hnutu*; akin to OHG *nuz* nut and perh. to *L. nuc* nut] (bef. 12c) 1 (1) : a hard-shelled dry fruit or seed with a separable rind or shell and interior kernel (2) : the kernel of a nut b : a dry indehiscent one-seeded fruit with a woody pericarp 2 : a hard problem or undertaking b : CORE, HEART 3 : a perforated

block usu. of metal that has an internal screw thread and is used on a bolt or screw for tightening or holding something 4 : the ridge in a stringed instrument (as a violin) over which the strings pass on the upper end of the fingerboard 5 : a small lump (as of butter) 6 : a foolish, eccentric, or crazy person b : ENTHUSIAST (a movie ~) 7 pl : NONSENSE — often used interjectionally 8 slang : a person's head 9 usu. vulgar : TESTIS 10 : the amount of money that must be earned in order to break even 11 : EN 1 — nut-like \-līk/ adj  
**nut** v (15c) : to gather or seek nuts  
**nut-tate** \nut-tāt, \nyū- / v nut-tat-ed; nut-tat-ing (1880) : to exhibit or undergo nutation  
**nut-tation** \nut-tā-shən, \nyū- / n [L. *nutatio*, *nutatio*, fr. *nutare* to nod, rock — more at NUBEN] (1612) 1 archaic : the act of nodding the head 2 : oscillatory movement of the axis of a rotating body (as the earth) : WOBBLE 3 : a spontaneous usu. spiral movement of a growing plant part — nut-tation-al \-shən-əl, -shə-nəl/ adj  
**nut-brown** \nut-brəwn/ adj (14c) : of the color of a brown nut  
**nut-case** \-kās/ n (1599) : NUT 6a  
**nut-crack-er** \-kra-kər/ n (ca. 1548) : an implement for cracking nuts  
**nut-gall** \-gəl/ n (15c) : a gall that resembles a nut; esp : such a gall produced on oaks  
**nut grass** n (1775) : a perennial sedge (*Cyperus rotundus*) of wide distribution that has slender rootstocks bearing small edible tubers resembling nuts; also : a related sedge (*C. esculentus*)  
**nut-hatch** \nut-hach/ n [ME *notehache*, fr. note nut + *hache*; akin to OE *tohaccian* to hack — more at HACK] (14c) : any of various small tree-climbing chiefly insectivorous birds (family Sittidae and esp. genus *Sitta*) that have a compact body, a narrow bill, a short tail, and sometimes a black cap  
**nut-house** \nut-haūs/ n (1900) slang : a mental hospital  
**nut-let** \nut-lət/ n (1856) 1 : a small nut b : a small fruit similar to a nut 2 : the stone of a drupelet  
**nut-meg** \nut-meg, \-mæg/ n [ME *notemigge*, *notemuge*, ultim. fr. Old Occitan *noz muscada*, fr. *noz* nut (fr. *L. nuc*, *nuc*) + *muscada*, fem. of *muscat* musky — more at MUSCAT] (15c) 1 : an aromatic seed produced by an evergreen tree (*Myristica fragrans*) of the family Myristicaceae, the nutmeg family native to the Moluccas; also : the ground seed used as a spice — compare MACIS 2 : a tree yielding nutmeg  
**nut-pick** \nut-pīk/ n (1862) : a small sharp-pointed implement for extracting the kernels from nuts  
**nu-tri-ceu-ti-cal** also nu-tri-ceu-ti-cal \nu-tri-čeu-ti-kəl/ n [nutritive + pharmaceutical] (1990) : a foodstuff (as a fortified food or dietary supplement) that provides health benefits in addition to its basic nutritional value  
**nu-tri-tion** \nu-tri-ti-shən, \nyū- / n [AmerSp, fr. Sp, otter, modif. of *L. lutra*; prob. akin to OE *oter* otter] (1820) 1 : the durable usu. light brown fur of a nutria 2 : a large So. American semiaquatic rodent (*Myocastor coypus*) with webbed hind feet and a round nearly hairless tail that has been introduced into parts of Europe, Asia, and No. America  
**nu-tri-ent** \nu-tri-ent, \nyū- / adj [L. *nutritus*, *nutritus*, pp. of *nutrire* to nourish — more at NOURISH] (1650) : furnishing nourishment  
**nutrient** n (ca. 1828) : a nutritive substance or ingredient  
**nu-tri-ment** \nu-tri-mənt, \nyū- / n [ME, fr. *L. nutrimentum*, fr. *nutrire*] (15c) : something that nourishes or promotes growth, provides energy, repairs body tissues, and maintains life  
**nu-tri-tion** \nu-tri-ti-shən, \nyū- / n [ME *nutricion*, fr. LL *nutrition*, *nutritio*, fr. *L. nutrire*] (15c) 1 : the act or process of nourishing or being nourished; specif : the sum of the processes by which an animal or plant takes in and utilizes food substances 2 : NOURISHMENT 1 — nu-tri-tion-al \-trī-shən-əl, \-trī-shən-əl/ adj — nu-tri-tion-al-ly adv  
**nu-tri-tion-ist** \-trī-sh(ə)-nist/ n (1926) : a specialist in the study of nutrition  
**nu-tri-tious** \nu-tri-ti-shəs, \nyū- / adj [L. *nutricius*, fr. *nutric*, *nutrix* nurse, fr. *nutrire* to nourish — more at NOURISH] (1665) : NOURISHING — nu-tri-tious-ly adv — nu-tri-tious-ness n  
**nu-tri-tive** \nu-tri-tiv, \nyū- / adj (14c) 1 : of or relating to nutrition 2 : NOURISHING — nu-tri-tive-ly adv  
**nutritive ratio** n (1897) : the ratio of digestible protein to other nutrients in a foodstuff or ration  
**nuts** \nuts/ adj (1785) 1 : ENTHUSIASTIC, KEEN (~ for animals and children — Rick Reilly) 2 : INSANE, CRAZY (said that it was a novel and all the people who said otherwise were ~ — Flannery O'Connor)  
**nuts and bolts** n (1967) 1 : the working parts or elements 2 : the practical workings of a machine or enterprise as opposed to theoretical considerations or speculative possibilities — nuts-and-bolts adj  
**nut-sedge** \nut-sej/ n (ca. 1909) : NUT GRASS  
**nut-shell** \nut-shəl/ n (13c) 1 : the hard external covering in which the kernel of a nut is enclosed 2 : something of small size, amount, or scope — In a nutshell : in a very brief statement  
**nut-ty** \nut-tē/ n (1958) slang Brit : NUT 6a  
**nut-ty** \nut-tē/ adj nut-ti-er, -est (15c) 1 : having or producing nuts 2 : having a flavor like that of nuts 3 : ECCENTRIC, SILLY; also : mentally unbalanced — nut-ti-ly \-tē-lē/ adv — nut-ti-ness n  
**Nuu-Chah-Nulth** also Nuu Chah Nulth \nu-čhā-nūl/ n, pl Nuu-Chah-Nulth also Nuu Chah Nulth [Nootka *nuc̓həl*, lit., all along the mountains] (1979) : NOOTKA  
**nux vom-i-ca** \naks-vā-mī-kə/ n, pl nux vomica [NL, lit., emetic nut] (14c) 1 : the poisonous disk-shaped seed of a tree (*Strychnos nuxvomica*) of the family Loganiaceae of southern Asia that contains several alkaloids and esp. strychnine and brucine; also : the tree yielding nux vomica 2 : a drug containing nux vomica



nuthatch

\ə about \ə kitten, F table \ər further \ə ash \ə ace \ə mop, mar  
 \uə out \ch chin \el bet \el easy \el go \el hit \el ice \el job  
 \uə sing \el go \el law \el boy \th thin \th the \el loot \el foot  
 \y yet \zh vision, beige \k, \c, \u, \v see Guide to Pronunciation



ve-da-lla \vī-dāl-yə\ *n* [NL, genus name] (1889): an Australian ladybug (*Rodalia cardinalis*) introduced to many countries to control scale insects — called also *vedalla beetle*

ve-dan-ta \vā-dān-tā, vā-, -dān- \ *n* [Skt *Vedānta*, lit., end of the Veda, fr. *Veda* + *anta* end; akin to OE *ende* end] (1788): an orthodox system of Hindu philosophy developing esp. in a qualified monism the speculations of the Upanishads on ultimate reality and the liberation of the soul — *Ve-dan-tism* \-dān-ti-zəm, -dān- \ *n* — *Ve-dan-tist* \-dān-tist, -dān- \ *n*

ve-dan-tic \vā-dān-tik, -dān- \ *adj* (1882): 1: of or relating to the Vedanta philosophy 2: VEDIC

ve-dā or ve-dāh \vā-dā\ *n* [Sinhalese *vedda* hunter] (1681): a member of an aboriginal people of Sri Lanka

ve-dold \vā-dōld\ *n* (1928): a member of a race of southern Asia traditionally classified by such physical features as wavy to curly hair, chocolate-brown skin color, and slender body build — *Ve-dold* *adj* *ve-dette* or *vi-dette* \vī-det\ *n* [F, fr. *le vedette*, alter. of *velette*, prob. fr. *Sp vela* watch, fr. *velar* to keep watch, fr. *L vigilare* to wake, watch, fr. *vigil* awake — more at *VIGIL*] (ca. 1611): a mounted sentinel stationed in advance of pickets

ve-dle \vā-dik\ *adj* (1848): of or relating to the Vedas, the language in which they are written, or Hindu history and culture between 1500 B.C. and 500 B.C.

vee \vē\ *n* (ca. 1883): 1: something shaped like the letter V 2: the letter v

vee-jay \vē-jā\ *n* [video jockey] (ca. 1981): an announcer of a program (as on television) that features music videos

veena *var* of VINA

veep \vēp\ *n* [fr. *v. p.* (abbr. for *vice president*)] (1949): VICE PRESIDENT

veer \vir\ *v* [ME *veren*, of LG or D origin; akin to MD *veren* to slacken, MLG *veren*] (15c): to let out (as a rope)

veer *vb* [ME *veren*, fr. MF *vire*, fr. OF, to throw with a twisting motion, fr. VL *vibrare*, alter. of *L vibrare* to wave, propel suddenly — more at *VIBRATE*] *w* (15c): 1: to change direction or course (the economy ~ed sharply downward) 2: of the wind: to shift in a clockwise direction — compare *BACK* 3: to wear ship ~ *vt*: to direct to a different course; *specif*: WEAR 7 *syn* see *SWERVE* — *veering-ly* \-tē-lē\ *adv*

veer *n* (ca. 1611): a change in course or direction (a ~ to the right)

vee-ry \vir-ē\ *n*, *pl* *veeries* [prob. imit.] (1838): an American thrush (*Catharus fuscescens*) common in the eastern U.S.

veg \vē\ *n*, *pl* *veg* (1918) chiefly Brit: VEGETABLE

ve-ga \vē-gā, vā-\ *n* [NL, fr. Ar (*al-Nasr*) *al-Wāqī*, lit., the falling (vulture)] (ca. 1638): the brightest star in the constellation Lyra

veg-an \vē-gān\ *also* \vē-also\ *ve-jān* or \-jān\ *n* [by contr. fr. *vegetarian*] (1944): a strict vegetarian who consumes no animal food or dairy products; *also*: one who abstains from using animal products (as leather) — *vegan* *adj* — *veg-an-ism* \vē-gān-iz-əm, -vā-gā-, -vē-jā-\ *n*

veg-e-ta-ble \vē-jā-bal, -vē-jā-\ *adj* [ME, fr. ML *vegetabilis* vegetative, fr. *vegetare* to grow, fr. *L*, to animate, fr. *vegetus* lively, fr. *vegere* to enliven — more at *WAKE*] (15c): 1 *a*: of, relating to, constituting, or growing like plants 2: consisting of plants: VEGETATIONAL 2: made from, obtained from, or containing plants or plant products (~ soup) (~ fat) 3: resembling or suggesting a plant (as in inertness or passivity)

vegetable *n* (15c): 1: PLANT 1b 2: a usu. herbaceous plant (as the cabbage, bean, or potato) grown for an edible part that is usu. eaten as part of a meal; *also*: such an edible part 3: a person whose mental and physical functioning is severely impaired and esp. one who requires supportive measures (as mechanical ventilation) to survive

vegetable ivory *n* (1842): 1: the hard white opaque endosperm of the ivory nut that takes a high polish and is used as a substitute for ivory 2: IVORY NUT

vegetable marrow *n* (ca. 1816) chiefly Brit: any of various smooth-skinned elongated summer squashes with creamy-white to deep green skins

vegetable oil *n* (1765): an oil of plant origin; *esp*: a fatty oil from seeds or fruits

vegetable oyster *n* (ca. 1818): SALSIFY

vegetable pear *n* (1887): CHAYOTE

vegetable wax *n* (1815): a wax of plant origin secreted commonly in thin flakes by the walls of epidermal cells

veg-e-ta-bly \vē-jā-blē, -vē-jā-\ *adv* or *adj* (1651): in the manner of or like a vegetable

veg-e-tal \vē-jā-təl\ *adj* [ML *vegetare* to grow] (15c): 1: VEGETABLE 2: VEGETATIVE 3: of or relating to the vegetal pole of an egg or to that part of an egg from which the endoderm normally develops (~ blastomeres)

vegetal pole *n* (1896): the point on the surface of an egg that is diametrically opposite to the animal pole and usu. marks the center of the protoplasm containing more yolk — see *BLASTULA* illustration

veg-e-tar-i-an \vē-jā-ter-ē-on\ *n* [Pretable + *-arian*] (1839): 1: one who believes in or practices vegetarianism 2: HERBIVORE

vegetarian *adj* (1849): 1: of or relating to vegetarians 2: consisting wholly of vegetables, fruits, grains, nuts, and sometimes eggs or dairy products (a ~ diet)

veg-e-tar-i-an-ism \vē-jā-ter-ē-on-iz-əm\ *n* (ca. 1851): the theory or practice of living on a vegetarian diet

veg-e-tate \vē-jā-tāt, -tāt-ed; -tāt-ing\ [ML *vegetatus*, pp. of *vegetare* to grow] *vi* (1605): 1 *a*: to grow in the manner of a plant; *also*: to grow exuberantly or with proliferation of fleshy or warty outgrowths 2: to produce vegetation 3: to lead a passive existence without exertion of body or mind ~ *vt*: to establish vegetation in or on

veg-e-ta-tion \vē-jā-tā-shən\ *n* (1564): 1: the act or process of vegetating 2: inert existence 3: plant life or total plant cover (as of an area) 4: an abnormal growth upon a body part (fibrin ~s on the mitral valve) — *veg-e-ta-tion-al* \-chə-nəl, -tā-nəl\ *adj*

veg-e-ta-tive \vē-jā-tā-tiv\ *adj* (14c): 1 *a* (1): growing or having the power of growing (2): of, relating to, or engaged in nutritive and growth functions, as contrasted with reproductive functions (a ~ nucleus) *b*: promoting plant growth (the ~ properties of soil) *c*: of, relating to, or involving propagation by nonsexual processes or methods 2: relating to, composed of, or suggesting vegetation 3: of or

relating to the division of nature comprising the plant kingdom 4 *a*: AUTONOMIC 1 *b*: characterized by, resulting from, or being a state of severe mental impairment in which only involuntary bodily functions are sustained 5: VEGETABLE 3 — *veg-e-ta-tive-ly* *adv* — *veg-e-ta-tive-ness* *n*

ve-gete \vē-jet\ *adj* [L *vegetus* — more at *VEGETABLE*] (1639) *archaic*

: LIVELY, HEALTHY

veg-gle *also* *veg-le* \vē-jē\ *n* [by shortening & alter.] (1955): 1: VEGETABLE 2 *slang*: VEGETARIAN

veggie burger *n* (1972): a patty chiefly of vegetable-derived protein used as a meat substitute; *also*: a sandwich containing such a patty

veg out \vēj- \ *vi* *vegged out*; *veg-ging out* [short for *vegetate*] (1980): to spend time idly or passively

ve-he-mence \vē-ə-mən(t)s\ *n* (15c): the quality or state of being vehement: INTENSITY

ve-he-ment \vē-ə-mənt\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L *vehement*, *vehemens*, *vemens*] (15c): marked by forceful energy: POWERFUL (a ~ wind); *as* *a*: intensely emotional: IMPASSIONED, FERVID (~ patriotism) *b* (1): deeply felt (a ~ suspicion) (2): forcibly expressed (~ denunciations) *c*: bitterly antagonistic (a ~ debate) — *ve-he-ment-ly* *adv*

ve-hi-cle \vē-ə-kəl\ *also* \vē-hi-kəl\ *n* [F *véhicule*, fr. L *vehiculum* carriage, conveyance, fr. *vehere* to carry — more at *WAY*] (1612): 1 *a*: an inert medium (as a syrup) in which a medicinally active agent is administered *b*: any of various media acting usu. as solvents, carriers, or binders for active ingredients or pigments 2: an agent of transmission: CARRIER 3: a medium through which something is expressed, achieved, or displayed (an investment ~); *esp*: a work created esp. to display the talents of a particular performer 4: a means of carrying or transporting something (planes, trains, and other ~s); *as* *a*: MOTOR VEHICLE *b*: a piece of mechanized equipment

ve-hi-cu-lar \vē-hi-kyə-lər\ *adj* (1616): 1 *a*: of, relating to, or designed for vehicles and esp. motor vehicles *b*: transported by vehicle *c*: caused by or resulting from the operation of a vehicle (~ homicide) 2: serving as a vehicle

V-8 \vē-āt\ *n* (1930): an internal combustion engine having two banks of four cylinders each with the banks at an angle to each other; *also*: an automobile having such an engine

vell \vəl\ *n* [ME, fr. AF *veil*, *veille*, fr. L *vela*, pl. of *velum* sail, awning, curtain] (13c): 1 *a*: a length of cloth worn by women as a covering for the head and shoulders and often esp. in Eastern countries for the face; *specif*: the outer covering of a nun's headdress *b*: a length of veiling or netting worn over the head or face or attached for protection or ornament to a hat or headdress (a bridal ~) *c*: any of various liturgical cloths; *esp*: a cloth used to cover the chalice 2: the life of a nun — often used in the phrase *take the veil* 3: a concealing curtain or cover of cloth 4: something that resembles a veil (a ~ of stars); *esp*: something that hides or obscures like a veil (lift the ~ of secrecy) 5: a covering body part or membrane: as *a*: VELUM *b*: CAUL

veil *v* (14c): to cover, provide, obscure, or conceal with or as if with a veil ~ *vi*: to put on or wear a veil

veiled \væld\ *adj* (14c): 1 *a*: having or wearing a veil or a concealing cover (a ~ hat) *b*: characterized by a softening tonal distortion 2: obscured as if by a veil: DISOUSED (~ threats)

veiling \vē-lip\ *n* (13c): 1: any of various light sheer fabrics 2: VEIL

vein \vān\ *n* [ME *veine*, fr. AF, fr. L *vena*] (14c): 1 *a*: a narrow water channel in rock or earth or in ice *b* (1): LODGE 2 (2): a bed of useful mineral matter 3: LODGE 3 2: BLOOD VESSEL; *esp*: any of the tubular branching vessels that carry blood from the capillaries toward the heart 3 *a*: any of the vascular bundles forming the framework of a leaf *b*: any of the thickened cuticular ribs that serve to stiffen the wings of an insect 4: something suggesting veins (as in reticulation); *specif*: a wavy variegation (as in marble) 5 *a*: a distinctive mode of expression: STYLE (stories in a romantic ~) *b*: a distinctive element or quality: STRAIN (introduced a welcome ~ of humor) *c*: a line of thought or action (renewed discussion along the same ~) 6 *a*: a special aptitude (inherited an artistic ~) *b*: a usu. transitory and casually attained mood *c*: top form (thou troublest me; I am not in the ~) — *Shak.* — *vein-er* \vē-n-ər\ *adj*

vein *v* (1502): to pattern with or as if with veins

veined \vānd\ *adj* (ca. 1529): patterned with or as if with veins: having venation: STREAKED (a ~ leaf) (~ marble) (~ cheese)

vein-er \vē-n-ər\ *n* (1895): a small V gouge used in wood carving

vein-ing \vē-niŋ\ *n* (1826): a pattern of veins: VENATION

vein-let \vēn-lət\ *n* (1831): a small vein

veiny \vē-nē\ *adj* (1611): full of veins: noticeably veined (~ hands)

vel *abbr* velocity

ve-la-men \vē-lā-mən\ *n*, *pl* *ve-lam-i-na* \vē-lā-mā-nə\ [NL, fr. L, covering, fr. *velare* to cover, fr. *velum* curtain] (1882): the thick corky epidermis of aerial roots of an epiphytic orchid that absorbs water from the atmosphere

ve-lar \vē-lər\ *adj* [NL *velaris*, fr. *velum*] (1876): 1: formed with the back of the tongue touching or near the soft palate (the ~ *v* of *full cool*) 2: of, forming, or relating to a velum and esp. the soft palate — *velar* *n*

ve-lar-i-um \vē-lər-ē-əm\ *n*, *pl* *-la* \vē-lə\ [L, fr. *velum* curtain] (1834): an awning over an ancient Roman theater or amphitheater

ve-lar-i-za-tion \vē-lā-rā-zā-shən\ *n* (1915): 1: the quality or state of being velarized 2: an act or instance of velarizing

ve-lar-ize \vē-lā-rīz\ *v* -ized; -iz-ing\ (1915): to modify (as the *v* of *full cool*) by a simultaneous velar articulation

Vel-cro \vēl-(j)krō\ *trademark* — used for a closure consisting of a piece of fabric of small hooks that sticks to a corresponding fabric of small loops

veld or veldt \vēlt, vēlt\ *n* [Afrik *veld*, fr. D, field; akin to OE *feld* field] (1835): a grassland esp. of southern Africa usu. with scattered shrubs or trees

vel-li-ger \vē-lē-jər, vē-\ *n* [NL, fr. *velum* + *-ger* bearing, fr. *gerere* to bear] (1877): a larval mollusk in the stage when it has developed the velum

vel-lei-ty \vē-lē-ē-tē, vē-\ *n*, *pl* *-ties* [NL *velletas*, fr. L *velle* to wish, will — more at *WILL*] (1618): 1: the lowest degree of volition 2: a slight wish or tendency: INCLINATION

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